



Representative Louise M. Slaughter
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

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Rep. Slaughter Sponsors Global Youth Service Day Resolution; Obama Signs Landmark National Service Bill Into Law

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This weekend, young people from across the United States and around the world will carry out community service and service-learning projects

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Washington, DC - Today, as President Obama signed a major national service bill, Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chair of the House Committee on Rules, joined colleagues in introducing the Global Youth Service Day Resolution. This legislation recognizes Global Youth Service Day, a public awareness campaign that seeks to mobilize youth as leaders in their communities and highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities. Global Youth Service Day events are scheduled in Western New York.

"I am proud to stand with President Obama in calling for a renewed national spirit of public service," said Rep. Slaughter. **"Now more than ever, we must encourage Americans to do their part in their neighborhoods and cities to strengthen communities across the country and help put us on the road to recovery.□ America's youth have great potential to make a positive difference in their communities and the Global Youth Service Day resolution will go a long way to encourage them to do so."**

Rep. Slaughter also applauded the enactment of the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act, also known as the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which President Obama will sign into law today. This bill provides the greatest expansion of national service since President John. F Kennedy first issued his call to serve over 50 years ago. The legislation will launch a new era of civic participation by promoting and funding service opportunities for Americans, while fueling economic growth in their communities.

"The GIVE Act provides citizens with the critical resources to make a direct impact on their cities and neighborhoods. Americans have always risen to the occasion to help their fellow citizens in times of crisis -- this is no exception," Slaughter concluded.

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BACKGROUND

Global Youth Service Day 2009

On the weekend of April 24-26, young people from across the United States and around the world will design and carry out community service and service-learning projects in areas ranging from literacy and mentoring, to the environment and energy conservation, to hunger and homelessness. In addition to the tangible and positive results these projects have on our communities, research shows that sustained participation in community service and service-learning leads to increased levels of academic achievement and increased civic engagement among our youth.

Global Youth Service Day 2009 will involve 75 local and statewide Lead Agencies, 150 national partners, and 50 international organizations in supporting the millions of youth engaged in community service. To see Global Youth Service Day events currently registered in New York State please click [here](#).

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Major Provisions of the GIVE Act:

- The legislation will more than triple the number of volunteers serving in this country from 75,000 to 250,000 and establish four new service corps: a Clean Energy Corps to increase energy efficiency and conservation, an Education Corps to help increase student engagement, achievement and graduation, a Healthy Futures Corps to help improve health care access, and a Veterans Service Corps to enhance services for veterans.
- The bill will increase the education award service members receive in exchange for their contributions to \$5,350 for next year, the same as the maximum Pell Grant scholarship and permanently link it to match any future increases in the Pell Grant.
- The bill creates new opportunities for older Americans and retirees and allows them to transfer their education awards - up to \$1,000 for at least 350 hours of service - to a child,

foster child or grandchild.

- The bill establishes a "Summer of Service" program to engage middle and high school students in service and allow them to earn a \$500 education award to put towards college.

- The bill will help strengthen disaster relief efforts and establish an alumni corps of former service participants who can help respond during natural disasters and other emergencies.

For a complete summary of this legislation, [click here](#) .

For more information on the role service programs plays in New York [click here](#) .

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